1 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director

: Estimates of Casualties in North Vietnam SUBJECT

- 1. This memorandum is for your information. It shows that the estimates of casualties in North Vietnam in the latest study prepared for Secretary McMamara are consistent with those in the previous study and in other papers derived from it; i.e., memoranda to the President and to Senator Russell and the proposed press release.
- 2. The casualty tables from the two studies are attached. A comparison of these tables shows the following:
 - The estimates for 1965 are identical.
 - b. The estimates for 1966 are higher because the latest study (Table 1) covers the full year while the earlier study (Table 2) covered only the first nine months.
 - c. The 1966 estimates in the latest study are given as a range, based on alternate methodologies. The lower end of the range is derived from exactly the same methodology used in the earlier study. upper end of the range is based on a new method which takes into account the tons of ordnance dropped and affects only the estimate of civilian casualties inflicted by armed reconnaissance attacks (marked in red). Because we are not yet certain which method yields hore accurate results, we have included both and labelled the 1966 column in Table 1 preliminary.

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/s/ R. J. Smith

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Estimated Casualties from Rolling Thunder

Table 1 Study Dated January 1967

	1965	1966	<u>Total</u>		
Civilians Fixed targets Armed reconnaissance	8,000	17,900 to 20,200	23,900 to 28,200		
	3,000	900	2,900		
	4,000	17,900 to 19,300	21,900 to 23,300		
Fixed targets Armed reconnaissance	7,200	4,650	11,850		
	4,300	400	4,700		
	2,900	4,250	7,150		
TOTAL	13,200	22,580 to 24,850	35,750 to 38,050		

Preliminary estimates

Table 2 Study Dated December 1966

	1963	Jan-Sep 1986	<u>Total</u>
Civilians Fixed targets Armed reconstissance	4,000 4,000	11,900 700 11,200	17,900 2,700 15,200
Fixed targets Armed reconnaissance	7,200 4,300 2,900	3,800 400 3,400	11,000 4,700 6,800
TOTAL	13,200	15,700	28,900

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